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and

1 a processor operatively connected to said demodulator and said receiver, said  
2 processor detecting and routing at said receiver station control signals associated with  
3 said information transmission; and  
4 a controller operatively connected to said processor, said controller receiving  
5 said information transmission from said processor and detecting the status of a  
6 television display, [and a video recorder,] said processor [receiver] receiving status  
7 information from said controller about said television display, [and said video  
8 recorder,] said processor routing or actuating said video storage device to store a  
9 selected portion of said information transmission [to said video recorder] depending on  
10 the status of said television display.

11 Please add the following claims:

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cont'd

12 3. A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver  
13 station, said receiver station having a receiver, a tuner, a tuner controller, a digital  
14 detector, a processor, and a storage device, said tuner controller receiving instructions  
15 from said processor to control said tuner to frequency select event signals, said digital  
16 detector for receiving digital signals, said method comprising the steps of:  
17 informing said programmable receiver station of an event signal;  
18 detecting the absence of said event signal based on said step of informing said  
19 receiver station of an event signal;  
20 reacting, under processor control, based on said step of detecting the absence of  
21 said event signal;

1 locating said event signal based on said step of reacting under processor control;

2 and

3 processing said event signal based on said step of locating said event signal.

4 4. The method of claim 3, where said step of informing said programmable  
5 receiver station of an event signal further comprises one or more steps of the group  
6 consisting of:

7 informing said receiver station of a time or channel of said event signal;

8 informing said receiver station of a title or subject matter of said event signal;

9 programming said receiver station to process an event signal; and

10 detecting a code or datum that designates or identifies an event signal.

11 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates  
12 programming to be displayed at a television monitor, said method further comprising  
13 one step of the group consisting of:

14 receiving television programming based on said step of locating said event  
15 signal;

16 actuating a television monitor based on said step of processing said event signal;

17 communicating television programming to one or more devices based on said  
18 step of processing said event signal;

19 detecting digital data in a television signal based on said step of processing said  
20 event signal;

21 inputting to a computer digital data received from a remote source based on said  
22 step of processing said event signal; and

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1 storing television programming at said storage device based on said step of  
2 processing said event signal.

3 6. The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:  
4 instructing a computer based on said step of reacting under processor control;  
5 and  
6 instructing said computer based on said step of processing said event signal.

7 7. The method of claim 3, wherein said processor reacts by passing one or  
8 more signals, said method further having one step of the group consisting of:  
9 locating one or more signal words in a broadcast or cablecast transmission; and  
10 assembling a signal unit based on one or more signal words, said signal unit to  
11 be passed.

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12 8. The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates multimedia  
13 programming to present, said method further comprising one step of the group  
14 consisting of:  
15 receiving programming based on said step of locating said event signal;  
16 actuating an output device based on said step of processing said event signal;  
17 communicating programming from one or more devices based on said step of  
18 processing said event signal;  
19 detecting digital data in a broadcast or cablecast transmission based on said step  
20 of processing said event signal;  
21 inputting to a computer a plurality of control signal types based on said step of  
22 processing said event signal; and

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1 outputting video programming from a storage device based on said step of  
2 processing said event signal.

3 9. The method of claim 3, wherein said event signal designates output  
4 information content to be generated, said method further comprising one step of the  
5 group consisting of:

6 programming a computer to respond to a plurality of control signal types  
7 detected in a broadcast or cablecast information transmission;

8 receiving a broadcast or cablecast information transmission based on said step of  
9 locating said event signal;

10 actuating a device to output said generated output information content based on  
11 said step of processing said event signal;

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12 passing digital information to a control signal detector based on said step of  
13 processing said event signal;

14 detecting a plurality of control signal types based on said step of processing said  
15 event signal;

16 inputting to a computer a plurality of control signal types based on said step of  
17 processing said event signal; and

18 outputting video programming from a computer based on said step of  
19 processing said event signal.

20 10. A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver  
21 station, said receiver station having a receiver, a digital detector, a processor, and an

1 output device, said digital detector for receiving digital signals, said processor for  
2 processing signals, said method comprising the step of:  
3 informing said programmable receiver station of an event location;  
4 detecting the presence or absence of an event signal based on said step of  
5 informing said receiver station of an event location;  
6 reacting, under processor control, based on said step of detecting the presence or  
7 absence of said event signal;  
8 processing said event signal based on said step of reacting under processor  
9 control; and  
10 outputting programming based on said step of processing said event signal.

11 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said step of informing said programmable  
12 receiver station of an event location further comprises one or more steps of the group  
13 consisting of:

14 informing said receiver station of an input or output of said event location;  
15 informing said receiver station of a time to input or output said event location;  
16 informing said receiver station of subject matter to input or output at said event  
17 location;  
18 programming said receiver station to detect data at said event location; and  
19 processing a mark, code or datum that designates or identifies said event  
20 location.

21 12. A method for processing an event signal at a programmable receiver  
22 station, said receiver station having a receiver, a digital detector, a processor, and an

1 output device, said digital detector for receiving digital signals, said processor for  
2 processing signals, said method comprising the step of:  
3 informing said programmable receiver station of an event time;  
4 detecting the presence or absence of an event signal based on said step of  
5 informing said receiver station of an event time;  
6 reacting, under processor control, based on said step of detecting the presence or  
7 absence of said event signal;  
8 processing said event signal based on said step of reacting under processor  
9 control; and  
10 outputting programming based on said step of processing said event signal.

11 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of informing said programable  
12 receiver station of an event time further comprises one or more steps of the group  
13 consisting of:

14 informing said receiver station of a location to input or output at said event time;  
15 informing said receiver station of subject matter to input or output at said event  
16 time; and  
17 programming said receiver station to detect data at said event time.

18 14. A method of signal processing at television receiver station, said television  
19 receiver station having a television receiver, a television monitor, a signal detector, a  
20 processor, and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:  
21 informing said receiver station of at least one of:

*Sub C1*  
1 (1) a television program of interest, said television program designated  
2 by title or subject matter; and

3 (2) a time to receive or display a television program;  
4 receiving a television program based on said step of informing said receiver  
5 station;

6 determining said television monitor is not outputting at least a portion of said  
7 received television program; and

8 controlling one or more apparatus based on said step of determining.

9 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said one or more controlled apparatus  
10 include said storage device, said method further having at least one step of the group  
11 consisting of:

*B2*  
*Cont 11*  
12 directing said television program to said storage device; and

13 storing said television program on said storage device.

14 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said one or more controlled apparatus  
15 include said television monitor, said method further having at least one step of the  
16 group consisting of:

17 directing said television program to said storage device; and

18 storing said television program on said storage device.

19 17. A method of signal processing at television receiver station, said television  
20 receiver station having a television receiver, a television monitor, a signal detector, a  
21 processor, and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

1 informing said receiver station of at least one of:

2 (1) a television program of interest, said television program designated  
3 by title or subject matter; and

4 (2) a time to receive or display a television program;  
5 determining said television monitor is not outputting at least a portion of a  
6 television program based on said step of informing said receiver station; and

7 performing, under processor control based on said step of determining, at least  
8 one of the group consisting of:

9 (1) receiving a television program;

10 (2) outputting at least said portion of a television program; and

11 (3) storing a television program.

12 18. A method of enabling an event signal at a receiver station, said method  
13 comprising the steps of:

14 storing operating instructions at a remote data source, said operating instructions  
15 enabling said receiver station to react to the presence or absence of said event signal;

16 receiving at said remote data source a query from said receiver station;

17 transmitting said operating instructions from said remote data source to said  
18 receiver station in response to said step of receiving said query, said receiver station  
19 selecting and storing at least some of said operating instructions;

20 transmitting from a second remote source to said receiver station a signal which  
21 controls said receiver station to locate or process to said event signal based on said  
22 operating instructions.



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1 19. A method of controlling at least one of a plurality of receiver stations each  
2 of which includes a broadcast or cablecast mass medium program receiver, at least one  
3 output device, a control signal detector, at least one processor capable of responding to  
4 an instruct signal, and with each said mass medium program receiver station adapted  
5 to detect and respond to one or more instruct signals, said method of communicating  
6 comprising the steps of:

7 (1) receiving at a broadcast or cablecast transmitter station an instruct signal  
8 which is operative at the receiver station to react to the presence or absence of an event  
9 signal and delivering the instruct signal to a transmitter;

10 (2) receiving at said transmitter station one or more control signals which at  
11 the receiver station operate to communicate the instruct signal to a specific processor;  
12 and

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13 (3) transferring said one or more control signals to the transmitter, said  
14 transmitter transmitting the instruct signal and the one or more control signals.

15 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said instruct signal or some  
16 identification data in respect of said instruct signal is embedded in a television signal or  
17 in a signal containing a television program.

18 21. The method of claim 19, wherein a switch communicates signals  
19 selectively from a receiver and a memory or recorder to a transmitter, said method  
20 further comprising one from the group consisting of:

21 detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct  
22 communication;

*Sub C1*  
1 determining a specific signal source from which to communicate a signal to a  
2 transmitter;

3 controlling said switch to communicate a signal to said transmitter in response to  
4 a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;

5 controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a selected signal source;  
6 and

7 controlling said switch to communicate to said memory or recorder a signal  
8 which is effective at the receiver station to instruct.

9 22. The method of claim 19, wherein a controller controls a switch to  
10 communicate to a transmitter a selected mass medium program or control signal,  
*B2*  
*concl*  
11 further comprising one from the group consisting of:

12 detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct  
13 transmission;

14 inputting to said controller a signal which is effective to control said switch;

15 controlling said switch to communicate one or more instruct signals according to  
16 a transmission schedule;

17 controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a specific one of a plurality  
18 of instruct signal sources; and

19 controlling said switch to communicate an instruct signal to a selected one of a  
20 plurality of transmitters.